

## HB 1706 -- Transportation of Railroad Employees by Contract Carriers

Sponsor: McGhee

This bill changes the laws regarding contract carriers that transport railroad employees, tools, and supplies.

The responsibility for the establishment and enforcement of reasonable safety rules and regulations for vehicles owned, used, leased, or contracted by common carriers by railroads to transport employees, tools, and supplies is transferred from the Motor Carrier and Railroad Safety Division of the Department of Economic Development to the State Highways and Transportation Commission. The Division of Multimodal Operations in the commission must administer the rules and regulations.

The bill:

(1) Prohibits a contract carrier that transports railroad employees in a vehicle designed to carry less than 15 passengers for compensation from requiring or allowing a driver to drive or remain on duty for more than:

(a) 10 hours after eight consecutive hours off duty;

(b) 15 hours of combined on-duty time and drive time since last having eight consecutive hours off duty; or

(c) 60 hours of on-duty and drive time in any revolving period of seven consecutive days;

(2) Specifies that after 24 hours off duty, a driver must begin a new eight-consecutive-day period, and on-duty time will be reset to zero;

(3) Specifies that these provisions do not apply when an emergency exists and requires documentation of the emergency situation;

(4) Requires a contract carrier to maintain and retain accurate time records for three years after the year in which they were written that show specified information regarding each driver's work hours; and

(5) Requires a contract carrier to maintain a driver qualification file for each driver it employs. The file may be combined with a driver's personnel file and must contain:

(a) A copy of the driver's current driver's license showing the

class E qualification or its equivalent;

(b) A biennial certification of the physical ability of the driver to operate a motor vehicle; and

(c) Documentation establishing that the driver's driving record has been reviewed at least once per year.